

## **Claim Amendments**

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A heater blower housing comprising:

a fan compartment in the heater blower housing;

a fan in the fan compartment;

a motor compartment in the heater blower housing, the motor compartment having an inlet vent opening that communicates an exterior environment of the heater blower housing with the motor compartment;

a motor in the motor compartment, the motor being operatively connected to the fan for rotation of the fan in the fan compartment of the motor;

a guard mounted over the inlet vent opening, the guard having an outer side wall positioned outside the heater blower housing directly opposite the inlet vent opening and completely covering the inlet vent opening, the guard having a configuration that allows ambient air to pass through the guard and then through the inlet vent opening into the motor compartment while preventing objects from being inserted through the inlet vent opening into the motor compartment.

17. (Original) The heater blower housing of Claim 16, further comprising:

an inlet vent collar on the heater blower housing, the inlet vent collar extending around the inlet vent opening; and,

the guard being removably attachable to the inlet vent collar.

18. (Original) The heater blower housing of Claim 16, further comprising:  
the inlet vent opening is positioned in a first plane; and,  
the guard having an opening positioned in a second plane that is oriented  
at an angle relative to the first plane.

19. (Original) The heater blower housing of Claim 16, further comprising:  
the guard configuration defines a nonlinear flow path for ambient air to  
travel through the guard to the inlet vent opening.

20. (Previously Presented) The heater blower housing of Claim 16, further  
comprising:  
the guard outer side wall covers over the inlet vent opening and muffles  
noise of the motor operation in the motor compartment.